

NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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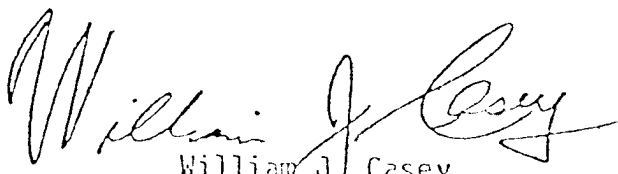
MEMORANDUM FOR NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE BOARD
NATIONAL FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Protection of Sensitive Intelligence

The President recently decompartmented and declassified, in furtherance of national policy, certain sensitive intelligence regarding the South Korean airliner atrocity. I am now concerned that additional disclosures are being made without authorization through some combination of an impression that related matters may now be discussed and a relaxation of discipline arising from the fact that authorized disclosures have been made.

Each authorized recipient of classified or compartmented intelligence is hereby reminded that the obligation to maintain the security integrity of such information remains fully in effect. Any disclosure without the requisite approval remains a serious security violation which can result in severe penalties.

Please bring this to the attention of all recipients of classified intelligence in your department or agency and require that renewed care be exercised at this time to protect intelligence sources and methods from damaging revelations.


William J. Casey
Chairman

(9 September 1983)

ENCLOSURE 1

OFFICIAL U.S. GOVERNMENT RELEASE REGARDING THE
SOUTH KOREAN CIVILIAN AIRLINER SHOOTDOWN

Soviet radar tracked the Korean civilian airliner (flight KAL 007) for nearly two and one half hours from approximately 1600Z until it was shot down by a Soviet fighter at 1826Z. Earlier, while enroute from Anchorage, Alaska, flight 007 was briefly in the vicinity of one of our reconnaissance planes, an RC-135, on a routine mission. The planes were soon widely separated as the Korean airliner flew on, and the RC-135 returned to its base in Alaska where it was on the ground for an hour before the shootdown occurred. At no time was that RC-135 in Soviet airspace, nor were there any other RC-135 aircraft in the Sakhalin area at the time of the shootdown. The U.S. was not aware that KAL 007 was off course.

When KAL 007 was detected by the Soviets, they scrambled jet interceptors from a base in Sakhalin Island. At least eight different fighters reacted at one time or another to the civilian airliner. The interceptor planes' radio transmissions--their conversations with each other and with their own ground control--were recorded. Although these recorded transmissions contain only the pilots' voices and not the Soviet ground controllers, it is clear that the pilots were responding to orders when the fatal rockets were fired.

The U.S. Government made known to the world the shocking facts of this incident as honestly and completely as they came to us.

ENCLOSURE 2

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